

EDUCATION AND LEARNING PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

Report of the Designate Head of Education and Learning

Recommendation:

To note the quarterly update from Education and Learning

1. Background/Introduction

This report provides the latest assessment information for all key stages and an update on performance in relation to SEN and pupils destinations post 16.

2. Main Text

Early Years: the take up of education places for two year olds continues to improve, with this summer term's take up of 84.6% surpassing last term's high of 83.9%. Devon continues to perform significantly better than latest National average (68%) and also exceeds South West and Statistical Neighbour take up rates of 75%.

Attainment and Attainment Gaps: Provisional results for 2015/16 indicate that Devon's performance at Foundation Stage continues to improve, with 72.2% of children achieving a good level of development. This is above the national figure of 69.3%. Devon has reduced its attainment gap to 24.9% which is significantly lower than the national attainment gap (31.4%).

National results in KS1, KS2 and KS4 are reported in a completely different way this year and are therefore not comparable with previous years.

Provisional results for Key Stage 1 indicate that Devon pupils are working at a level slightly below the national average. However KS1 results are based on teacher assessments (not externally marked) and issues have been identified nationally in relation to the consistency of assessment against the new secure fit model. Devon is satisfied that assessment within the county has adhered rigidly to the guidelines. 73% of pupils achieved the new expected standard in reading, whilst 70% achieved in mathematics and 62% achieved in writing. The attainment gaps in each subject at KS1 in Devon are lower than the regional attainment gaps but slightly higher than the national gaps. The percentage of Year 1 pupils achieving the Phonics standard remains above the National Average.

At Key Stage 2, the percentage of Devon pupils achieving the new 'expected standard' in reading, writing and maths is in line with national averages, with 53% of pupils reaching the standard. 71% of Devon children reached the expected standard in reading compared to 66% nationally. 71% also reached the expected standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling (72% nationally) whilst 69% reached the expected standard in maths (70% nationally). 69% of Devon children reached the expected standard in writing compared to 74% nationally. The writing standard was again teacher assessed and the same concerns as outlined above apply to consistency in marking. Ofsted are aware of the national issue.

Provisional results at Key Stage 4 indicate that Devon is performing significantly better than the national picture, with 58.3% of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSEs (Inc English and Maths) compared to 52.8% nationally. Devon is also performing better than the national picture in the new 'Attainment 8' measure, where the average score per Devon pupil is 50.4 compared to 48.2

nationally. The new 'Progress 8' measure indicates that Devon pupils are making average progress with an average score per pupil of -0.01, better than the regional average score per pupil of -0.05.

At A Level, provisional results indicate that Devon continues to improve its performance with 10.8% of pupils achieving 3+ A grades in 2016 compared to 9.4% in 2015. Devon's performance is now significantly better than its statistical neighbours (9.3%) and is slightly better than the regional picture (10.6%). The percentage of Devon pupils achieving grades AAB or better has significantly improved, with 18.4% achieving in 2016 compared to 15.6% in 2015. Devon is now performing better than its statistical neighbours (17.1%) and is in line with the regional picture (18.6%) but remains below the national picture (21.6%).

Indicative results at KS2, KS4 and KS5 for disadvantage groups and attainment gaps will not be available until the New Year and will therefore be covered in future reports.

Quality of Provision: The quality of state funded education provision in Devon continues to be higher than the national picture. The percentage of Devon schools judged to be Good or Outstanding has risen to 92% compared to 89% nationally. Both Primary and Secondary schools continue to be above the national average but there has been no change for Special schools (70% are good or outstanding). The percentage of pupils attending a good or better school now stands at 93.5% compared to a national figure of 86.7%

Admission Appeals: Devon has the lowest rate of admission appeals in the South West, with only 0.9% of admissions for the 2015/16 academic year resulting in an appeal being lodged and 0.6% of admissions resulting in an appeal being heard. This is significantly better than the national picture where 4.1% of admissions resulted in an appeal being lodged and 3% resulted in an appeal being heard. Devon is in the best 1% of LAs in England for its low level of admission appeals, with only 2 LAs having better rates.

Fewer appeals were heard for secondary school admissions than primary school admissions. 0.3% of secondary school admissions resulted in an appeal being heard (compared to 3.6% nationally) and 0.7% of primary school admissions result in an appeal being heard (2.6% nationally). Secondary school appeals were more likely to be successful than primary school appeals, with 20% of secondary schools appeals heard decided in the parent's favour compared to 13.2% of primary school appeals heard.

Electively Home Educated: in 2015/16 there was a 33% increase in the number of children registered with the Elective Home Education service (which had a total of 1,018 pupils registered). The most frequent reason cited by parents choosing to home educate continues to be 'Lifestyle/Cultural/Philosophical' followed by 'dissatisfaction with the school environment'. 'Attendance/Prosecution' saw the greatest percentage increase, rising from 5 in 2014/15 to 45 in 2015/16. All Key Stages saw significant increases, with the greatest increase at KS1 (55% increase), rising from 120 children in 2014/15 to 186 in 2015/16. KS2 and KS3 continue to have the greatest number of home educated students (295 at KS2 and 290 at KS3).

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND): The volume of requests for assessments and transfers from statutory statements continues to be high. Additionally the number of requests for assessment in quarter 2 is 51% higher than the same quarter in the previous year. Requests for high needs block funding for children without statutory plans have also increased. This has necessitated a cap being placed on the funding available to support students without an EHCP plan and this may increase further the already high demand for statutory assessments.

The local authority is also managing a high number of requests that do not meet the statutory threshold for assessment; approximately 48% per quarter are not meeting the threshold. The work rate of issuing plans within the 20 week national timeline still requires improvement; 29% were issued on time. The number of assessments in progress that were overdue has been increasing over the last year; the increasing requests mean that to address the growing volume, a clear improvement plan of SEN processes is required. As part of the SEND reform agenda an analysis of the processes is in progress with expected report/recommendations expected by end of November 2016.

Young People Not in Employment Education Training: Recently published national information indicates that the percentage of young people not in Employment Education Training (NEET) in Devon remains virtually unchanged, dropping slightly from 4.2% in 2014 to 4.1% in 2015 and remaining line with the National average (4.2%.)

The government has recently announced that performance in this area will now be measured by combining the figures for NEETs and young people whose status is 'Not Known' in to a single performance measure. This provides a fuller picture of the impact of NEETs tracking and support services on young people.

The most recent comparable local data is for July 2016. This shows NEETs and Not Knowns combined for Devon to be 9.9% compared to 11.8% for the South West as a whole and 11.6% for England.

For the period July-September 2016, the picture is very different across the year groups with year 12 participation the highest at 94.3%, year 13 at 88.7% and year 14 at 27.3%. In future only the data for years 12 and 13 will be regarded as targets by DfE, in line with the statutory duty on local authorities to track young people destinations

NEET Vulnerable Groups: Data for the period July- September 2016 shows that the vulnerable group with the highest NEET rate is that of teenage parents (80.4%). However, the volume of young parents is quite small, accounting for only 5% of all NEET young people

Learners with learning difficulties or disabilities and Children in Care/Care leavers together form the largest groups. Learners with learning difficulties or disabilities account for 14% of the total and Children in care/Care leavers 11.3%.

Dawn Stabb

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Skills: Councillor James McInnes

Chief Officer for Childrens Services, Jo Olsson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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